

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 028667

R 231138Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 175

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: SOVIET CHARG'S OBSERVATIONS ON INDO-PAK TALKS

1. OSVIET EMBASSY CHARGE ILLARIONOV, IN CONVERSATION WITH ME AT POLISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION JULY 23, BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF INDO-PAK TALKS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE JULY 24. HE ASKED IF I WERE OPTIMISTIC OR PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE TALKS, AND I REPLIED THAT WHILE WE ARE OF COURSE GLAD THAT SUCH TALKS ARE GETTING UNDER WAY AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT SOME PROGRESS WILL EMERGE, I FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO BE REALLY OPTIMISTIC BECAUSE OF THE STUBBORNNESS SHOWN IN RECENT MONTHS BY ALL THE THREE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

2. ILLARIONOV THEN ASKED IF WE COULD EXCHANGE VIEWS AS TO WHAT ISSUE WE REGARDED AS THE MOST SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS. I REPLIED THAT I WAS PERSONALLY INCLINED TO SEE THE ISSUE OF THE WAR CRIMES TRIALS AS THE BIGGEST SINGLE STUMBLING BLOCK TO SUCCESSFUL
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NEGOTIATIONS. HE IMMEDIATELY REPLIED THAT THIS WAS

EXACTLY HIS OWN FEELING.

3. ILLARIONOV THEN INQUIRED IF THE USG MIGHT NOT USE ITS INFLUENCE TO TRY TO PERSUADE MUJIB TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN HIS POSITION ON TRIALS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION OUR VERY LARGE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR BANGLADESH. I OBSERVED THAT I DID NOT REALLY THINK WE ARE IN A VERY GOOD POSITION TO INTERCEDE WITH MUJIB ON SUCH MATTERS AND CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WANT TO APPEAR TO ADOPT A POSTURE OF BARGAINING ON THE BASIS OF OUR ECONOMIC AID. ILLARIONOV SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THIS AND SPECULATED THAT PERHAPS HIS OWN GOVERNMENT OR THE BRITISH MIGHT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO BE HELPFUL IN THE MATTER.

DECON 6/30/74
SANDERHOFF

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